



RON ROBERTS
CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 7, 2002

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20544

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Chairman Powell:

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a favorable decision endorsing SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application on September 19, 2002. The company has filed its application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which has 90 days to review and vote on the application. With FCC approval, SBC Pacific Bell hopes to offer long distance services to Californians by the end of the year.

SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market comes at a time when the nation's telecommunications industry is in significant turmoil. Competition in the industry is now the norm, and it is necessary for regulators to apply fair and balanced rules to all providers in order to ensure that competition is based upon investments, technology, and sound business practices.

To date, the FCC has approved applications from 23 states. Over 141 million Americans are experiencing the benefit of a full, open telecommunications market – and Californians want and deserve these benefits. An open and competitive telecommunications market will certainly benefit the people of San Diego county.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to support SBC Pacific Bell's 271 application.

Sincerely,

Ron Roberts
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego

